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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/675,038    09/28/00    LYTTLE    J    DP-300832

*TWOMEY*

MMC2/0913

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 09/13/01

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*Reply by 13-DEC-2001*

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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SEP 18 2001

Legal Staff

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/675038

Applicant(s)

LYTLE

Examiner

K. N. NGUYEN

Group Art Unit

2839

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE TWO 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Reply by 13-DEC-2001
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-17 is/are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 11, 18 is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
  - ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10, 12, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flask et al. (5,928,011).

Flask et al. discloses a connector assembly comprising a slide mechanism 12 having an arm with a lock rail and a bayonet slot in the arm. A first connector body 34 having a mounting slot 48 and a channel for releasably receiving the arm of the slide mechanism; a second connector body 10 having a mounting tab constructed to be releasably received in the mounting slot of the first connector body to connect the first connector body and second connector body together. A third connector body 14 having a bayonet constructed to be received in the bayonet slot of the slide mechanism so that the third connector body is releasably connected to the first and second connector body. Minor variations over Flask et al. are deemed obvious design configurations or rearrangement of parts which would obtain substantially similar results. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950).

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*Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Claims 11 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

*Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Burns (6,254,407) and Doushita (6,270,371) are further cited to show connectors with lock mechanisms.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Khiem Nguyen between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM whose telephone number is (703) 308-1738 . If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus, may be reached on (703) 308 3119.

KN

September 10, 2001

  
Khiem Nguyen

Primary Examiner

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